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S E C R E T MUSCAT 000377

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SUBJECT: EMBASSY MUSCAT EAC - 03/05/2005

REF: MUSCAT 0361

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission William R. Stewart.
Reason: 1.4(c).

Summary

1. (SBU) The Ambassador chaired a meeting of the Emergency Action Committee March 5 to review the Embassy's security posture following the local weekend. Members noted no substantive changes in the local security environment since the last meeting. Accordingly, the EAC agreed that the Embassy's already heightened security posture and FPCON remain appropriate. End Summary.

Security Situation

2. (SBU) On March 5, the Ambassador chaired a meeting of the full Emergency Action Committee ("EAC") to review the Embassy's security posture following the local weekend. The meeting opened with a discussion of the local security situation, which the EAC continued to characterize as stable. Likewise, the EAC noted no/no new threat reporting specific to Oman. Members cited no security incidents among their staffs or family members over the weekend, while CONS confirmed that there were no reported security incidents or security-related queries from the private American citizen community.

Upcoming Events

3. (SBU) The EAC also reviewed upcoming events, specifically Free Trade Agreement negotiations scheduled for March 11-15, and a visit by the USS Thach (FFG 43) to Port Sultan Qaboos from March 10-13. Security for the events is being coordinated with the Royal Oman Police (ROP) and ROP Coast Guard, respectively.

Sustained Vigilance

4. (SBU) Prior to concluding the meeting, RSO reiterated that, despite the relative calm, members of the EAC must continue reinforcing to both their staffs and family members the need for vigilance regarding all aspects of personal security. RSO further re-emphasized the importance of immediately reporting all suspicious activity or security-related incidents to Post One.

EAC Conclusion

5. (S/NF) The EAC concluded that there have been no substantive changes in previously reported assessments of the local security environment since the last meeting held on March 2 (reftel). Accordingly, members agreed that the Embassy's already heightened security posture and FPCON remain appropriate. Embassy Muscat remains acutely aware of the need to monitor both the regional and local security and threat environments, and is prepared to take the necessary countermeasures should changes to either occur. ABM, DCM, MGT, RSO, RMAS, PAO, CONS, MSG, DAO, OMC (USDR), and ECA (USCENTAF) participated in the meeting.
BALTIMORE